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Treaty-Signing Pageant Slated At Eagle Butte

EAGLE BUTTE — "We will act in good faith and ask you only to keep the peace. . ."

This promise made 100 years ago will ring out again at a beautiful site on the Moreau River near Eagle Butte, as the Cheyenne River Sioux re-enact the signing of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868.

The speaker will be portraying General John B. Sanborn. His statement will be directed to members of the Sioux Tribe, many of whom play the part of their ancestors in the stirring re-enactment of the signing of a treaty that yet today affects the lives of the Sioux.

The site for the pageant was selected because of its similarity to the locale of old Fort Laramie. It was chosen by Will G. Robinson, retired State Historical Society secretary; Frank Ducheneaux, tribal chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux; and Harold W. Schunk, former reservation superintendent at Standing Rock, Turtle Mountain, Sisseton and Rosebud.

Historical accuracy has been carefully preserved in the script written by Will G. Robinson.

A likeness of Fort Laramie has been erected on the Moreau River site, and practice is underway for the two performances to be presented Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, starting at 2 p.m. each day.

Schunk, part Indian himself, is producer and director of the pageant. Back in 1961 he staged a similar pageant which brought some 15,000 visitors. Tribal officials expect an even bigger turnout for this production.

Most of the cast has been drawn from members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, but Indians from all the Sioux tribes will take part. Because the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians were involved in the treaty, representatives from those tribes will also be on hand.

1968 Treaty Commemoration

Clipped By:



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Sat, Nov 11, 2017